148. The necessity for declaring Friday as a holiday for the Mahomedans.

Mr. K. Mytheen Pillai (Member, Nominated) said the Mussalman Members of the Assembly had been, year after year, asking for Friday being declared as a holiday for the community. Their prayer was based on religious grounds, and he regretted that equal treatment with the Hindus and Christians was not meted out to them by the Government.

Mr. C. S. Uthumal Sahib Daha Lebba Alim Sahib (Member, Nominated) said that, while the other communities were asking for favors which would benefit them in this material world, the Mahomedans were every year, since the inception of the Assembly, asking for the small favour of exemption from work on one day in the week, which their religion ordained should be most religiously observed. No orthodox Mahomedan could think of breaking the rule. Temporary remission for a few hours on Fridays was not of much use, as that would put them to the necessity of walking long distances to the distant Courts the same day. The ceremonial days of the Christians and Hindus were declared *public* holidays. But he only requested that Friday be declared a holiday so far as the Mahomedans were concerned. He requested that a favourable reply might be vouchsafed to them on the present occasion.

Mr. Kochu Hassan Kunju (Member, Nominated) also supported the other speakers.

Dewan's reply.—The High Court have recently addressed the Government about the practice obtaining in British India in this matter. It will be looked into.

149. The need for opening a daily market at Ramanputhur.

Mr. D. Francis (Member, Nominated) said that, from the 1st mile-stone to the 4th mile-stone of the Rajakkamangalam road, there were more than 15 villages on both sides of the road within an area of four square miles, partly in the taluk of Agastiswaram and partly in the taluk of Eraniel, containing a population of 5,000 people. As there was not even a single market within that area, the inhabitants had to go every day for their marketing to Kottar, which was more than four miles from some of the villages, and they, more especially the women, were put to much inconvenience and hardship. The Member added that, a few years ago, some of the inhabitants had opened a market for those villages in a private compound on the Rajakkamangalam road; but that market had to be given up soon on account of the troubles which the sellers experienced at the hands of the owner of the compound. He therefore prayed for the opening of a market near the 2nd mile-stone on the Rajakkamangalam road.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

150 The need for making permanent the experimental Anchal office at Mukamel.

Mr. M. K. Narayana Panicker (Member, Sherthallai taluk) said that an Anchal office was recently opened at Mukamel as an experimental measure for one year. As the institution was working well, he prayed that it should be made permanent.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

151. The necessity for an Anchal office at Karimannur.

Mr. Ousep Chacko (Member, Thodupuzha taluk) said that there was at present no Anchal office on the eastern portion of the taluk, where there were several schools, churches and other public institutions. He requested that an Anchal office might be established at Karimannur, near the Proverthy Cutcherry. It would be a central place and 7 miles away from the nearest Anchal office.

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Dewan's reply.—An Anchal office will be opened at Karimannur.

Dewan.—Gentlemen of the Assembly, the Member for Agastiswaram has asked for permission to make a statement in regard to the representation about the Legislative Council he made the other day, and I have given him leave to speak.

Mr. M. Subramonia Pillai (Member, Agastiswaram taluk) then spoke as follows:—

"Sir, I beg leave to say one word before the Session closes, and that is this. In connection with my observations regarding the desirability of reconstituting the Legislative Council, I had to give expression to certain well-understood arguments in the matter of providing checks on the possible evils of one-man Government. In making these remarks, I did not intend to make any personal reflections. I am quite aware of the efforts that are being made in the direction of securing integrity and efficiency in the Public Service and of the success that has attended those efforts, and I would also express here my own high regard for you personally and for your attainments. All that I intended was that there were dark corners to be still lighted up.

In regard to the Assembly, I have felt that a great deal remains to be done to make it effective. That is all the real gist of my statements. In these circumstances, I wish to assure you, Sir, and Gentlemen of the Assembly, that I have spoken with the best of intentions and should feel extremely sorry if I have given room for offence."

[The Dewan then told Mr. Subramonia Pillai, on his own behalf and on behalf of the other Members of the Assembly, that they accepted the explanation tendered by him and the expression by him of his regret at what had happened.]

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